

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 ASMARA 00053 221604Z

15

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 USSS-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 SCCT-01

PER-01 CIAE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 /075 W

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R 221225Z JAN 76

FM AMCONSUL ASMARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3785

INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MAGADISCIO

CINCUSNAVEUR LONDON

COMNAVTELCOM WASHDC

USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN

COMIDEASTFOR

NAVCOMMUNIT ASMARA

NAVCOMMSTA NEA MAKRI

CNO WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L ASMARA 0053

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT ET

SUBJ: CALL ON MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR

PAGE 2 RUFTEFA5053 C O N F I D E N T I A L

REF: ASMARA 0046 (NOTAL)

1. TODAY I CALLED ON NEWLY RETURNED BG GETACHEW NADEW, MARTIAL LAW ADMINISTRATOR, WHO HAD BEEN IN ADDIS ABABA ON OFFICIAL BUSINESS. I ASKED HIM WHETHER BG WORKU MAKKONNEN, WHO HAD BEEN IN CHARGE IN ERITREA DURING GETACHEW'S ABSENCE, HAD IN FACT GONE TO ADDIS TO TAKE OVER AS GROUND FORCES COMMANDER. GETACHEW GRINNED, SAYING
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PAGE 02 ASMARA 00053 221604Z

WORKU WAS LUCKY TO GET OUT OF ERITREA, AND INDICATED THAT ALTHOUGH

IT IS NOT YET OFFICIAL, WORK WILL PROBABLY RECEIVE THAT DESIGNATION. GETACHEW ALSO NOTED THAT COL. TELAHUN WILL PROBABLY BE CONFIRMED AS ACTING COMMANDER OF THE SECOND DIVISION, AND PRESUMABLY OTHER OPERATIONAL FORCES IN ERITREA.

2. I THEN DISCUSSED THE GENERAL SECURITY SITUATION AS IT AFFECTS AMERICAN INSTALLATIONS. THE NEW ARRANGEMENTS FOR KAGNEW SEEM TO BE WORKING OUT, BUT I TOLD GETACHEW I FELT THE TIME HAD COME FOR ME TO HAVE EITHER COMMANDO POLICE OR ARMY TROOPS ON THE CONGEN COMPOUND. GETACHEW CONSIDERED THIS VERY SERIOUSLY, FINALLY AGREEING THAT MY REQUEST WAS REASONABLE, BUT EXPRESSED THE VIEW THAT

PAGE 3 RUFTEFA5053 C O N F I D E N T I A L

THEY SHOULD DEFINITELY BE ARMY TROOPS AND NOT COMMANDO POLICE, AS MANY OF THE LATTER ARE STILL ERITREANS. GETACHEW SAID HE WOULD DISCUSS MY REQUEST WITH TELAHUN, WITH WHOM I SHOULD WORK OUT THE DETAILS. I PLAN TO DO THIS WITHOUT DELAY. I FEEL IT VERY NECESSARY THAT FROM HERE ON OUT, WE HAVE DIRECT EPMG MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN ANY FUTURE INCIDENTS INVOLVING THE CONGEN COMPOUND, BE THEY FIREFIGHTS, ROCKET ATTACKS, KIDNAPPING ATTEMPTS, OR ASSAULTS.

3. I ALSO INFORMED GETACHEW THAT CONGEN DEPENDENTS HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED TO LEAVE AND WOULD SHORTLY BE GONE. HE DID NOT SEEM UNHAPPY AT THIS.

4. FINALLY, I ASKED GETACHEW WHAT HIS EXPECTATIONS WERE FOR POSSIBLE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS BY THE INSURGENTS ON THE WEEKEND OF JAN 31. HE DISCOUNTED THE POSSIBILITY OF ANYTHING MEANINGFUL HAPPENING, NOTWITHSTANDING WIDESPREAD LOCAL EXPECTATIONS THAT FIREWORKS CAN BE EXPECTED.

SHERRY

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Margaret P. Grafeld
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